BENGALURU, MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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PRESENT TEACHER

Punishment for being responsible: Educationists decry questionable suspension of 2 teachers

PAGE 5

TROUBLE ON DUTY

Transport Minister writes to Home Minister seeking strict action against culprits as attacks on bus drivers, conductors rise

PAGE 7

We try to understand the life journeys of two disabled food delivery personnel, who found a new way to live after life-altering accidents. Rough experiences aside, they appreciate the ability to earn their living independently

'WE ARE HERE TO SURVIVE'

Disrespect doesn't stop them from showing up each day

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An accident brought 31-year-old Muniswamy's life to a halt. He thought it was all over, when he met with the accident while on his way to distribute his sister's daughter's wedding invitation cards. "For two years, I couldn't even get out of bed. I never saw sunlight. I felt like life had come to a standstill," he recalled.

Today, he has found a profession again as a delivery agent. However, the road to recovery was tough.

Earlier a farmer by profession, Muniswamy said the accident left him unsure of what life meant anymore. After trying various treatments, it was Ayurvedic therapy that finally helped him recover. "I had a spinal cord injury and lost movement in my legs," he said.

Doctors advised him to continue his education, so he completed his SSLC and PUC. "They also suggested that I explore para-sports. That's how I got introduced to wheelchair cricket and basketball," he shared. Today, Muniswamy plays wheelchair cricket at the national level and has won several medals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"There are people who don't understand our pain. There are some who don't know we are disabled and ask us to come near doorsteps especially in apartments with multi floors

— Savitha, food delivery agent

Go phish

K'taka ranks 2nd in cyber fraud in country with ₹4,151 crore wiped out

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India is witnessing an alarming surge in cyber financial fraud, with digital thefts surpassing even counterfeit currency crimes. As per data compiled from various central government reports, cybercriminals have looted a staggering ₹36,448.19 crore across the country. Karnataka stands second on this list with ₹4,151.17 crore lost to cyber scams as of February 28, 2025.

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Even more troubling, ₹4,380.80 crore sits frozen in cybercriminals' bank accounts, yet to be returned to rightful owners. Of this, ₹403.41 crore belongs to Karnataka-based victims. These funds, transferred from victims' accounts, remain stuck due to legal and procedural complexities, police said.

According to data, nationwide, over 38.33 lakh cybercrime complaints have been filed—most involving people losing their savings to phishing, investment scams, loan fraud, and government scheme impersonations. Victims include people from all walks of life, from senior citizens and salaried employees to police officers and bureaucrats.

Massive losses, minimal recovery

A cyber expert said, "To put the scale

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

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BBMP yet to install CCTV cameras around lakes

Despite a High Court directive issued in 2019, the BBMP's plan to install CCTV surveillance around lakes to curb encroachments and pollution remains largely unimplemented even after five years. The prolonged delay has sparked concerns amongst environmental activists and citizens alike.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had prepared a Rs 5 crore project to install CCTV cameras around lakes under its jurisdiction, aiming to monitor and prevent waste dumping and encroachments. The project received approval in 2022, but failed to take off due to a lack of bidders and administrative delays.

According to BBMP's official data, Bengaluru has 210 lakes—167 under BBMP, 33 under Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), five under the State Forest Department, four under the Lake Development Authority, and one with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). In the absence of surveillance, many lakes continue to face dumping of garbage and encroachments, turning them into breeding grounds for illegal activity.

While citizen activists have long demanded improved protection for the city's water bodies, the lack of progress has left many disillusioned. BBMP officials now say that renewed efforts are underway. Eleven lakes have been identified for the first phase of CCTV installation, including lakes in Jakkur, Yelahanka, Dasarahalli, Kempambudhi, and Vibhutipura. Work is expected to begin shortly on these locations. A BBMP official said, "While installation is crucial, consistent monitoring and maintenance will be key to the project's success—failing which, the effort may fall short once again." — BMB

Protest erupts over BBMP's cold shoulder to citizens' woes

HSR Layout residents request redressal to grievances without any delay, say they are compelled to protest as authorities have turned blind eye to their problems

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The members of Community Task Force Charitable Trust (CTFCT) on Saturday organised a silent protest against BBMP for their alleged negligence and apathy despite repeated appeals regarding infrastructure-related problems on 24th Main Road in HSR Layout. Bangalore Mirror published a story 'HSR Layout residents slam ongoing civic body inaction' on June 12, narrating that residents say that the BBMP authorities continue to ignore illegal use of pedestrian space, worsening walkability, and daily commuter risks, even after numerous complaints.

Around 50 residents, holding placards, staged a protest demanding that BBMP authorities restore roads that have been in a bad state for a long time. CTFCT Trustee Vijay Kumar kept flowers and garlands on potholes to highlight the condition of the roads in the locality. "We are compelled to stage a protest. We have been appealing to the authorities to fix the problems but in vain. We hope the authorities will redress our grievances without any delay," said Venkatesh HS, a resident.

Demanding the authorities to fill up potholes on 24th Main Road, Venkatesh Reddy, a resident, said that the stretch between Nandini Milk Parlour and Somasundarapalya Lake is full of potholes. "The 400-metre-long stretch has more than 20 potholes posing danger to the motorists. It is tough to use the road whenever it rains heavily. I have come across some two-wheeler riders falling from their vehicles while navigating the potholes and craters on the road," said Reddy.

Expressing concern over the poor condition of the roads, Sachin Pandit, a resident, opined that the BBMP authorities have ignored 24th Main Road. "The two-wheeler riders using the stretch between Nandini Milk Parlour and Somasundarapalya Lake are vulnerable to road accidents due to the potholes and craters," highlighted Pandit.

BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Rameshdev G said that he would look into the matter. "I will visit the spot soon. I will fix the problem," he said.

Around 50 residents staged a protest demanding that BBMP authorities restore roads that have been in a bad state for a long time

> "The 400-metre-long stretch has more than 20 potholes posing danger to the motorists
> – Venkatesh Reddy, resident, HSR Layout

BangaloreMirror
HSR Layout residents slam ongoing civic body inaction

BM, on June 12, wrote about the persistent neglect despite numerous complaints

Run Addict's annual marathon organised in Rajarajeshwari Nagar

The Rajarajeshwari Nagar unit of Run Addict organised its 7th annual marathon on Sunday at Balakrishna Open Air Theatre, Rajarajeshwari Nagar. Over 4,200 participants from the general public and running community took part in the event, which was held across 10 km, 5 km, and 3 km categories. Following the marathon, a cultural program was held where the public also participated.

Several organisations supported the event, including Sadvana Farms, BGS Gleneagles Hospital, and Praveen Jewels. To promote sustainability and reduce the use of plastic and other disposable materials, more than 4,000 steel plates, tumblers, and spoons were used with the support of Adamya Chetana Foundation.

The organisation has consistently held its events in an eco-friendly manner, avoiding the use of plastic or any other harmful materials. Run Addict is a volunteer-led non-profit group supported by individuals from various sectors of society who come together to organise the event. Till date, the organisation has distributed 2.25 lakh notebooks, over 800 desks, and play materials to children in rural government schools. It has also carried out several public service activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. — BMB

Stepping up to save lives

In a commendable initiative marking World Blood Donor Day, a blood donation camp was successfully organised at Sobha Royal Pavilion, Kodathi. The drive was spearheaded by residents Prateek Saraf and Shivani in close coordination with the Kodathi RWA.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from the community, with 60 residents registering to donate blood contributing significantly to local blood banks and hospitals.

Held at the Wing 10 Lobby, the camp was a reflection of the growing spirit of civic responsibility within the Sobha Royal Pavilion community. The organisers ensured a smooth and safe process, with proper medical staff, hydration support, and post-donation care.

Speaking on the occasion, Prateek Saraf shared, "This initiative was all about giving back to society. The turnout exceeded expectations, and we're grateful to everyone who contributed." Shivani added, "It was heartening to see our residents come forward selflessly for such a noble cause."

The blood donation camp is part of a broader effort by Sobha Royal Pavilion residents to foster a socially conscious and proactive community. — BMB

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◎ Blocked walkway
Vidhana Soudha

Footpaths are unusable due to triple parking in 'No Parking' zones near Vidhana Soudha. Where should pedestrians walk?

◎ Garbage pile-up
Kaggadasapura

Garbage continues to pile up on Kaggadasapura Road near CAIR, CV Raman Nagar. It's been a month—BBMP must act immediately.

◎ Obstructed footpath
D'Souza Road

Wires all over the footpath in D'Souza Road, ward 111, have been affecting pedestrian movement.

Bribe case stays, pending work irrelevant

The Karnataka High Court declined to halt the investigation into a corruption case against a Bescom assistant engineer. Justice M Nagaprasanna stated that pending work status is not essential to prove bribe demand and acceptance.

YHP Yathisha, Assistant Engineer in Field Operations and Maintenance at Bescom, Bengaluru, filed the petition. N Chandan Kumar, a work inspector at Sri Chakra Electricals, had submitted two power supply applications on February 9, 2024, for buildings in Annapoorneshwari Nagar. Yathisha directed the complainant to contact Satish, a contractor, who demanded Rs 5 lakh on February 26, 2024.

The amount was subsequently reduced to Rs 3.8 lakh, with the complainant recording the demand. Lokayukta police conducted a trap operation, recovering the money from Yathisha's vehicle. The petitioner contested the proceedings, citing insufficient evidence of demand and acceptance, and claimed no pending work related to the complainant.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted, "If the petitioner had not demanded money, it is incomprehensible as to why the complainant would come with the money unless directed by the petitioner. Therefore, there is prima facie demand in the case at hand. Recovery is made from the car. The complainant was holding the cash. The recovery was made at the time when the petitioner was accepting the cash. The Phenolphthalein test turned the hands of the petitioner pink. The swab was taken at the spot from the hands." –BMB

Cops launch fuel-saving push at red signals

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In a bid to promote fuel conservation and environmental awareness, senior traffic officials have issued a directive to officers across the city, urging both traffic personnel and motorists to switch off their vehicle engines while waiting at traffic signals for more than 20 seconds.

A formal memo was issued this week by senior traffic officials across divisions, urging officers to actively create awareness on this practice, both among themselves and the public. The goal: reduce fuel wastage, minimise emissions, and promote healthier urban living.

The official noted that signals with longer red-light durations, typically over 20 seconds, are key points where this behaviour should be implemented. Traffic personnel have been directed to promote the practice through consistent messaging at junctions and through public announcements.

As part of the initiative, the Byatarayanapura Traffic Police Station under the Traffic West Division organised an awareness drive on Friday. Officers engaged with motorists, encouraging them to turn off their engines during long red lights.

Speaking to BM, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Traffic (West), Anitha B Haddannavar said, "This is aimed at raising awareness around fuel efficiency. Many drivers tend to keep their engines running while waiting at signals, even when the wait exceeds 20 seconds. By switching off the engine, we can significantly cut down on fuel wastage."

She added that traffic police have been instructed to actively promote this practice at major junctions, especially where signal wait times are longer. "This initiative is not just about savings. It also contributes to reducing pollution and promoting eco-conscious driving habits among citizens," the officer said.

The traffic police are expected to roll out a public awareness campaign soon, which may include signboards at signals, social media advisories, and announcements urging motorists to switch off their engines during longer red-light halts. Officials say this is important to help people build better habits and reduce pollution. A bigger campaign with posters at busy junctions is also being planned.

Discipline or offence? Teachers face crossfire

Two Karnataka teachers face suspension for seeking classroom and involving students in cleaning, raising questions over penalising basic discipline and shared responsibility

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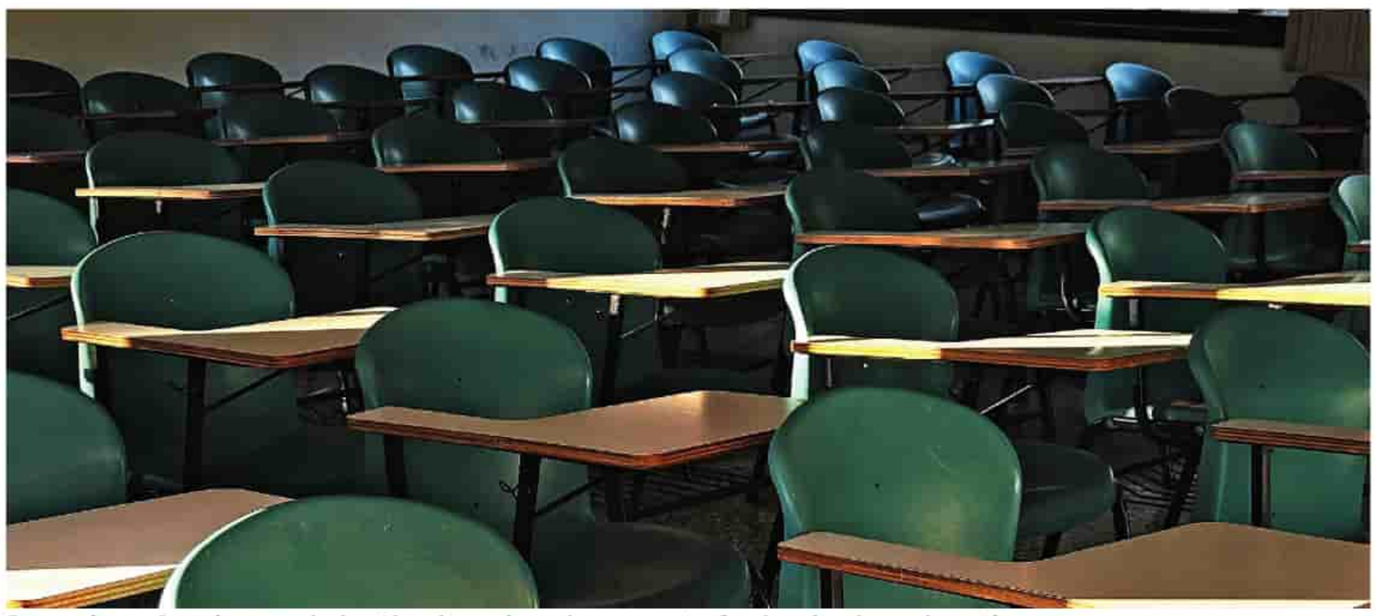

Sweeping, cleaning, and planting have long been part of school value education

Two teachers from Karnataka have faced suspension in separate incidents that have stirred outrage in the education community, raising serious questions about administrative priorities and the state of moral education in government schools. In the first case, Veeranna Madival, the headmaster of the Government Lower Primary School in Nidagundi, Raibag Taluk of Belagavi district, was suspended for requesting an additional classroom for his students. In the second incident, Gangabinka KR, a teacher at the Government Higher Primary School in Bengaluru South district (formerly Ramanagara district), was suspended for involving students in routine school cleanliness activities, part of the day's Swachhata drive.

Both cases, described by education experts as "punishments for acts of responsibility," highlight the harsh and sometimes contradictory conditions under which Karnataka's government school teachers operate. Experts argue these incidents are symptomatic of a system where administrators have become obstacles to the very values they claim to promote, moral and value-based education.

Moral lessons or missteps?

Activities such as sweeping the classroom, cleaning the floor, planting saplings, and watering them have long been integral to value education in schools. These tasks are not considered child labour or forced work, but are meant to teach children discipline, responsibility, and teamwork, all part of the learning experience, not a chore. Despite the increasing emphasis on school hygiene and environmental awareness, in most government schools, it's still the students who clean their own classrooms and water plants due to a lack of staff.

> **Most government schools lack basic staff. When students themselves keep their classes clean, where is the harm? This has always been the practice in rural schools** –Teacher

Where are workers?

An education expert said, "If children are not to be engaged in cleanliness drives, experts argue, the government must first provide D-grade workers (cleaning staff) to all schools. At a time when even permanent teachers are lacking and many schools rely on guest faculty, expecting full-time non-teaching staff seems far-fetched. Can local SDMCs (School Development and Monitoring Committees) appoint workers using local resources? This question remains unanswered."

Hypocrisy in policy implementation?

Teachers ask, why are they punished for involving students in cleanliness under Swachh Bharat when top officials themselves take photos posing with brooms alongside students during Gandhi Jayanti or other drives? Tasks performed under schemes like Mid-Day Meal Nutrition Gardens, Scouts & Guides, NCC, and NSS often involve student participation in similar activities. Are these now to be considered punishable offences?

"Suspending teachers for upholding value-based education sends a dangerous message. Teachers need security and support first. Only then can they inspire students to become model citizens," said another education expert. Another teacher, who wished to remain anonymous, added, "Most government schools lack basic staff. When students themselves keep their classes clean, where is the harm? This has always been the practice in rural schools."

MLC Puttanna, representing the teachers' constituency, stated, "The Ramanagara teacher was suspended following instructions from the Zilla Panchayat CEO. A protest will be staged by teachers in front of the ZP office on Tuesday, demanding proper staff for all schools."

These incidents raise a larger question: Are our teachers being punished for trying to teach values? Or is the system failing to understand the difference between discipline and exploitation?

With friends like these...

The Chikkajala police are hunting for two men who staged a fake highway robbery with the help of hired goons to loot their friend. Chandan Puttaswamy, a 23-year-old businessman, was allegedly lured into a trap by his friends Achal and Pawan on April 30. The duo invited him for a casual dinner and a long drive. Chandan joined them for dinner and drinks. While returning, Achal slowed the car, claiming someone had rear-ended them. Moments later, two men on a scooter intercepted the vehicle, slapped Chandan, and robbed him at knifepoint. Chandan alleged that despite being in a position to help, Achal and Pawan didn't intervene. When Chandan pleaded with them to chase the robbers, they refused and instead convinced him not to file a complaint. However, when he recounted the incident to his family, they grew suspicious and urged him to approach the police. Acting on his complaint, Chikkajala police traced call records and confirmed that Achal and Pawan were in regular contact with the men who carried out the robbery. –BMB

Bike taxi riders write to CM

The Namma Bike Taxi Association has written to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, urging the state government to revoke its proposed blanket ban on bike taxi services. In a letter sent on Sunday, the association highlighted the impact the move would have on over one lakh gig workers across Bengaluru and Karnataka who depend on bike taxis as their primary source of income.

The association said drivers come from vulnerable backgrounds, including students, daily-wage earners, and parents, and many took up this work after job losses during the Covid-19 pandemic. "We ride in the hot sun, heavy rain, and traffic to keep the city moving," the letter stated, adding that the ban would push thousands into financial distress.

Digging up trouble: Residents at wit's end over torn-up roads

BBMP authorities did not provide any information about why roads needed to be dug up, roads must be restored immediately as it is causing many problems, say residents

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Nearly 200 residents from 4th and 6th Cross Roads have been awaiting authorities concerned to restore the roads dug up at Bhairaveshwara Nagar, near Sunkadakatte in Jnanabharathi ward of Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly constituency.

The incident appears to be peculiar because the roads were reportedly in a good condition, and there have not been any complaints asking the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities or others to develop these roads. Notably, neither the residents nor the former corporator of Jnanabharathi ward are aware of why the roads were dug up. They have been waiting for the past two months, expecting authorities to restore the roads, but nothing has been done to fix the problem till date.

"There was no need for the authorities to engage workers to dig the roads that were in good condition. In my opinion, the contractor and the authorities took up the work just to make money. I demand the authorities concerned to take suitable measures for restoring the roads without any delay," said Murali Pandit, a resident.

Demanding the BBMP authorities to restore the roads immediately, Srinivas BE, a resident, said that the authorities did not bother to inform the residents why the roads needed to be dug up. "The authorities did not inform us. On one fine day, the authorities engaged a contractor to dig the road by using an earth moving machine. I am not sure whether the contractor has received the work order from BBMP," he said, adding that the residents have been suffering for more than two months. "We are not able to park our vehicles in front of our homes due to the bad condition of the road," he said.

The roads at Bhairaveshwara Nagar, near Sunkadakatte, have been dug up for the past two months, but no action has been taken

> **"The residents have been suffering a lot due to the negligence and apathy of Jnanabharathi ward engineer**
> – Govindaraju, former corporator

Coming down heavily on BBMP authorities, Ramesh T, a resident, said that the condition of the crossroads have worsened in the past two months. "I do not know why these roads were dug up. We restored a stretch on 5th Cross by spending around Rs 20,000. We do not have funds to restore the crossroads that were dug up," he said.

Blaming Jnanabharathi ward engineer for the condition of the roads, Govindaraju, former corporator, opined that BBMP engineers are not bothered about the condition of the roads. "The residents have been suffering a lot due to the negligence and apathy of Jnanabharathi ward engineer. Most of the roads are filled with potholes. I want the authorities to restore the crossroads at Bhairaveshwara Nagar without any delay," said Govindaraju.

BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer has assured to look into the matter. "Please send me photos of the roads. I will visit the spot soon," said the Assistant Executive Engineer.

Aadhaar now mandatory for dialysis under Suvarna Arogya Suraksha scheme

The Karnataka Health Department has mandated that all patients availing dialysis under the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust must possess an Aadhaar card. Those without one must apply immediately, and minors can register with parental consent. Until Aadhaar is issued, children under 18 can submit a birth certificate or school records to access the service, while adults may use an Aadhaar enrolment slip, bank passbook, ration card, driving license, voter ID, or any government-recognised ID. In case of fingerprint authentication failure, iris or facial recognition should be used. Hospitals have been directed not to deny dialysis treatment solely due to the absence of Aadhaar, provided alternate identification is submitted. — BMB

Karnataka ranks first in country for wind power

Karnataka was awarded first place in the country for achieving the highest wind power capacity addition of 1,331.48 MW in the financial year 2024–25.

State Energy Minister K J George received the award from Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, during the Global Wind Day 2025 celebrations themed 'Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India', held in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Tamil Nadu and Gujarat followed Karnataka, adding 1,136.37 MW and 954.76 MW respectively, said a statement issued by the office of Minister George. "This is not just a number—it is a reflection of Karnataka's unwavering commitment to clean energy," George said after receiving the award. He said the proactive policies, implementation capabilities, and vision have positioned Karnataka as a leader in the renewable energy landscape.

The addition of 1,331 MW in a single year demonstrates the state's momentum in harnessing wind energy for a sustainable future, he explained. — PTI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Slapping critics

"Those who mocked my hairstyle and Kannada-speaking skills just got their answer — straight from the SSLC results!" quipped Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa in a press meet last Saturday. From day one as minister, he's been the target of snide remarks — "Your hairstyle's off!" "You can't even speak proper Kannada!" — but the minister claims that results speak louder than the trolls. "The students of our department have answered every critic through their performance," he declared, pointing to the 70% pass rate in the SSLC re-exams. Celebrating two years as Education Minister, Madhu added, "We gave students two extra chances to pass — no exam fees, no stress. Ours is the only state doing this."

CM clears the air

Putting an end to the buzz around the Governor's surprise presence at the Royal Challengers Bengaluru felicitation event, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah clarified, "I personally invited him!" Speaking to journalists, CM said, "At 11.29 am that day, KSCA's Shankar and Jayaram extended the invite to me. Later, they informed me that the Governor was also invited. When reports claimed the Governor came on his own, it wasn't true. My political secretary Govindaraju even called the Governor and handed me the phone. I personally requested him to attend. The felicitation lasted barely 20 minutes. But since the media made it look like the Governor just showed up uninvited, I had to set the record straight."

DKS says cheers — but not to Royal Challenge or RCB!

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar has uncorked the truth behind swirling rumours about him buying the Indian Premier League team Royal Challengers Bengaluru — and he's not mincing words. "No, I'm not buying RCB. I don't even drink Royal Challenge!" he quipped, leaving reporters amused and rumours crushed. Speaking to the media in the city, DKS said, "Yes, I'm a member of KSCA (Karnataka State Cricket Association), but that's about it. I was once offered a place in the KSCA governing body, but I passed — no time for that. I've left my family to manage our educational institutions. My plate is full. I don't even drink Royal Challenge… so why would I buy RCB?"

Fake scare

In a scene straight out of a whacky suspense drama, Bengalureans had a scare last Wednesday when a gun was spotted chilling inside a flowerpot at a shopping complex near Vasanth Nagar. The discovery sparked panic — until the police showed up and delivered the twist: it was a toy gun used to fire crackers. The High Grounds police swooped in after locals reported the weapon in a flowerpot at a commercial complex. The object looked menacing enough to raise eyebrows — and blood pressure. But when officers took a closer look, they confirmed it was nothing more than a noisy little party prop. Adding fuel to the frenzy was a rumour that the complex housed the office of Karnataka's Labour Minister Santosh Lad. That nugget of gossip sent the speculation mill into overdrive. But the cops quickly cleared the air — no minister's office here, folks. So, what looked like a gun scare turned out to be a flowerpot drama with fireworks... quite literally!

11-year report card

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah didn't hold back when asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 11-year-long stint at the top. His verdict? "Zero marks," he declared. "Modi has ruled for 11 years purely on PR magic. He survives on publicity, not performance," Siddaramaiah quipped while speaking to reporters. Taking a dig at the media, he said, "Modi gets prime-time attention for everything, but when we launch welfare schemes with guaranteed benefits, the narrative flips – they say the state will go bankrupt. Funny how the same ideas get copied later." He didn't stop there. The CM also reminded everyone of Modi's earlier stance as Gujarat CM. "Back then, he demanded 50% of central taxes for states. Now that he's the PM, what happened to that logic?" he said.

Beggars and gossipers

PM Modi's 11th year anniversary has sparked debate between BJP and Congress. After criticisms from Congress leaders, former minister B Sriramulu didn't hold back as he took a jab at India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Speaking at a press conference called to highlight PM Narendra Modi's 11-year track record, Sriramulu claimed, "Back in Nehru's days, India was mocked as a country of beggars and idle gossipers." He alleged that Nehru did little for India's development and misused power for family interests. "The Nehru family worked for personal gain, not national growth," he declared.

— Sridhar Vivan

BMTC staff under attack: Minister urges action

Calling the attacks on staff 'deeply concerning', Transport Minister urges swift action, stating misconduct doesn't justify public humiliation or violence

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In recent weeks, several drivers and conductors have faced assault on duty

In the wake of rising assaults on transport corporation staff, Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has written to Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, urging immediate and stringent action to safeguard employees of BMTC and other transport bodies.

Calling the incident "deeply concerning," the minister noted that such attacks on drivers and conductors have become increasingly frequent. "There have even been cases where miscreants have tried to endanger the lives of staff members. In one instance, a knife attack was reported," Reddy stated in his letter.

The minister emphasised that while staff members are held accountable for any misconduct and disciplinary actions are taken swiftly, physical assaults and public humiliation are unacceptable. "No one has the right to take the law into their own hands," the letter reads. "We request the Home Department to initiate strict action against those who indulge in such behaviour and to devise a long-term solution to prevent such incidents."

Spike in attacks on bus staff

The minister's letter follows a recent incident reported in the jurisdiction of Bellandur Police Station, where a woman techie allegedly assaulted a BMTC bus driver with a slipper. The driver, identified as Hussain, was reportedly attacked after he did not stop the bus at a location requested by the commuter. The altercation occurred on a route between the Tin Factory and the Silk Board, and an FIR has been registered at the Bellandur Police Station.

> **We are simply asking for accountability and protection for our staff. If the mistake is on part of staff, strict action will be taken against them too**
>
> –Ramalinga Reddy, Minister

According to BMTC officials, the woman had purchased a ticket to Kaikondanahalli but attempted to alight earlier. When the driver did not halt at her preferred stop, she allegedly confronted him and assaulted him in full public view.

This incident is the latest in a series of attacks on transport staff in Bengaluru. In recent weeks, there have been multiple reports of drivers and conductors being verbally abused, manhandled, and even physically assaulted while on duty. In one alarming case, a bus driver was reportedly attacked with a knife by an irate commuter. These repeated instances have raised serious concerns about the safety and dignity of public transport staff across the city.

Speaking to BM, Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "We have written to the Home Minister urging strict action in such cases. In this particular incident, the woman was asked to alight at the stop for which she had taken the ticket. Since tickets are now free, if she deboards earlier and there is a surprise check by BMTC officials, the driver and conductor could be held responsible. We are simply asking for accountability and protection for our staff. If the mistake is on the part of the staff, strict action will be taken against them too. But no one should take the law into their own hands," he added.

A copy of the letter has also been sent to the Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, urging coordination between departments to ensure staff safety across the board.

KAUSHIK JN

Sweet Ganesha

Lord Ganesha idol made using 1,000 kilograms of mangoes was displayed in Basavanagudi

Airport e-buses not ready

The much-anticipated rollout of air-conditioned electric buses on the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) route has been indefinitely delayed due to slow progress in setting up charging stations and delays in driver recruitment, according to BMTC sources. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) had originally planned to launch electric bus services on the KIA route by the end of May. However, the charging station being constructed approximately 1 km from Terminal 2 of the airport is progressing at a sluggish pace. Until the facility becomes operational, the electric buses cannot commence service.

Adding to the delay is the slow-paced recruitment of trained drivers. A senior BMTC official confirmed that there is still no fixed date for the launch of operations, and no official communication has been made regarding a new timeline. Sources said that the under-construction charging station near Terminal 2 will be able to charge up to three buses simultaneously. Officials note that it will be especially useful during short breaks between bus schedules.

BMTC has partnered with a private company to supply 320 electric buses. These buses will operate under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model, with BMTC paying ₹65.8 per km to the maintenance company. Each bus is expected to cover up to 250 km per day, amounting to an annual mileage of approximately 87,500 km. "The new fleet of air-conditioned electric buses will feature comfortable seating and a 13-metre length. The buses will also be equipped with wheelchair-friendly ramps for easier access to specially-abled passengers," a BMTC official added.

Officials said that the BMTC plans to replace the existing Vajra and Vayu Vajra buses on the airport route with these modern electric vehicles. **–BMB**

UN experts call for stronger Rohith Vemula Bill

In a significant development for anti-discrimination legislation in India, two United Nations human rights experts have formally addressed the Government of Karnataka regarding the draft Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Exclusion or Injustice) (Right to Education and Dignity) Act. The experts urged the state to refine and strengthen the bill to ensure it fully aligns with international human rights obligations and adequately addresses caste-based discrimination, especially in institutions of higher education.

The letter, authored by the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, was dispatched under Human Rights Council Resolutions 52/36 and 52/5. It marks a rare instance of direct international attention to a sub-national legislative effort aimed at addressing systemic social injustices within India's complex caste matrix.

The Rohith Vemula Act, named in memory of the late Dalit PhD scholar whose 2016 suicide sparked national outrage and a reckoning on caste-based discrimination in academia, is being crafted by a committee established by the Karnataka state government. The draft aims to establish legal safeguards against discrimination and harassment of marginalised communities, specifically Scheduled Castes (Dalits), Scheduled Tribes (Adivasis), Other Backward Classes, and religious minorities—within Karnataka's higher education institutions.

According to the UN experts, the initiative is both timely and potentially transformative. It represents an opportunity to combat systemic barriers faced by marginalised communities as recognised under Articles 15(4), 16(4), 30, 341, and 342 of the Indian Constitution, and under international treaties. Despite the draft's ambitions, the UN rapporteurs highlighted several critical shortcomings. Notably, while the Act lists protected groups, it fails to explicitly identify the unique and disproportionate forms of discrimination suffered by Dalits and Adivasis in areas such as mental health support, academic progression, housing. **–BMB**

Domestic workers' convention today

To highlight the various struggles of domestic workers, and their continued aspiration to be recognised and valued as domestic workers, the Domestic Workers' Rights Union is going to hold a convention in Freedom Park on Monday.

"The Domestic workers Rights Union has for more than a decade been working for the rights and protection of all categories of domestic workers, and also with cases of forced labour trafficking. We are also working with domestic workers for their rights in Belagavi and Mangaluru," Geeta Menon, Joint Secretary of the Domestic Workers Rights Union (DRU).

"In India, over 50 million domestic workers remain in a state of subservience and vulnerability. Despite their visible contributions, they are often considered invisible and relegated to the shadows. No ruling party, political entity, or social class acknowledges them, despite their critical role in the care economy that enables households to function. Despite International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions, various private bills, and numerous promises, no legislative framework exists to protect them," she said.

"International Domestic workers is celebrated the world over on June 16. This is an historic day for domestic workers, world over as the ILO in its General Assembly passed the C189 Convention -- Decent Work is Domestic work in 2011. Even after 14 years, India is lagging behind other countries and has not yet ratified the Convention. Thus, the entire domestic workers workforce, have been left vulnerable all these years, with no legal framework, or social protection or recognition as a worker," she explained.

"The Constitution guarantees us these fundamental rights. The meeting will celebrate the struggles of domestic workers; listen to them as they speak of the journey," she added.

Poongodi, a domestic worker said, "Citizens must stand in solidarity with domestic workers' as we often provide essential care. We are paid the bare minimum to survive and require immediate attention from all the stakeholders."

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jobs

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MEDICAL

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Babu Billapura Venkataswamy Reddy R/o No.20, Attinele main road, Billapura, Anekal Tq, Bengaluru 562125 have changed my minor son name from Suprith Babu to Supreeth Babu Affidavit Dt.14/06/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Roopa R R/o #12 Rkm Layout 3rd Phase 2 Nd Cross Margodhanahalli K R Puram Bangalore 560036 have changed my minor daughter's name from Annet Renjith to Annette Hannah Abigail.

I Shylaja Jayadevappa W/O, Jayadevappa R/o A 205,gmc 1 Apartment,a Block,2nd Floor,kodipalya Main Road,bsk 6th Stage,kengeri,bengaluru 60 have changed my name to Shylaja C N.

LOST & FOUND

I, Sudhir Tiwari, residing at 167, Akkipet – 53, have lost my D.Pharm II year marksheet (2024) issued by KLE College of Pharmacy, Rajajinagar. Roll No. NR0322032. FIR No. 1618802/2025. If found, Contact: 6363815729

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Kantara-1 film set damaged by winds in Shivamogga, no injuries reported

The production team of the upcoming Kannada film, Kantara – Chapter-1 on Sunday clarified that no injuries were reported following a recent mishap in which a ship like structure was overturned by strong winds near the Mani backwaters in this district.

Addressing reporters, Adarsh, executive producer at Hombale Films, said the capsized structure was part of a set erected for background visuals and no cast or crew members were present near it at the time of the incident.

"A ship-like set was erected for backdrop purposes. Due to heavy wind and rain, it toppled. However, our crew was at a safe distance, engaged in filming elsewhere. No one was injured, and the shoot continued without disruption," he said.

He added that necessary permissions for the shoot had been obtained from the police, forest department, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited taste (KPCL), and the local gram panchayat.

> **"A ship-like set was erected for backdrop purposes. Due to heavy wind and rain, it toppled. However, our crew was at a safe distance, engaged in filming elsewhere**

"We are not filming directly on the water. For safety reasons, a speedboat has been stationed at the site during the shoot."

Adarsh also said that none of the film equipment, including cameras, was damaged in the incident. "Had the cameras fallen into the water, we wouldn't have been able to resume shooting today. Rishab Shetty personally visited the location this morning to oversee the situation," he explained.

The clarification comes in response to earlier reports claiming that a boat carrying around 30 crew members capsized during the shoot. However, Hombale Films clarified that the incident involved only a set structure resembling a ship and not an actual operational vessel. The film, directed by and starring Rishab Shetty, is a prequel to the 2022 pan-India hit 'Kantara' and explores themes of spirit worship and folklore rooted in Karnataka's coastal traditions. **PTI**

Over Rs 4,380 crore is stuck in criminals' bank accounts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in perspective, the amount looted nationwide could fund BBMP's annual budget twice over. Karnataka's losses alone match the state's yearly power subsidy or nearly half the projected annual revenue from its mining sector

. Despite reporting a higher number of fake currency cases until 2022, India now records double the number of cases involving digital money fraud. Authorities have blocked over 7.81 lakh SIM cards and 2.08 lakh mobile phones linked to cybercrime operations."

Unclaimed funds

Cyber police say identifying the rightful owners of the seized money is a major challenge. "Victims' money lands in multiple fraudsters' accounts, and only a fraction is recoverable. Distributing even that fairly is proving extremely difficult," said a senior cybercrime officer.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has acknowledged the growing threat and is coordinating efforts with state cyber cells to curb the menace.

However, with rising dependence on digital payments, experts warn that stronger safeguards and public awareness are critical.

Back in the game

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"That's when my life truly began again," he said. Despite the odds, he found a way to support himself. "We had no income. I don't have legs anymore, and I can't change that but I can still make something of my life," he said.

Coming from a village in Andhra Pradesh, Muniswamy was unaware of food delivery apps or even how to speak Kannada. But with time and effort, he got started. After his measurements were taken, he received a customised wheelchair attached to the scooter within a month and began working as a delivery executive.

Delivery agent Savitha too has a similar story, This resident of Nagasandra is rebuilding her life while raising her 10 year-old son after a tragic accident turned her world upside down. "For four years after the accident, my life was filled with darkness," she recalled. "It wasn't even my fault. I wasn't the one riding, but still the blame fell on me." Abandoned by both her husband and their families, Savitha found herself completely alone.

"I slipped into depression. There were times I wanted to end it all, I attempted suicide several times. But after surviving those moments, I started to believe: If I could survive death, I could survive life too." Driven by the need to care for her child, Savitha eventually found a job opportunity. "I had no one to rely on. I shifted to a new place and started working. Today, I support my son on my own, provide for his education, and even pay extra tuition fees. I've instructed the teacher not to send him home early, just to ensure he's safe while I'm at work."

Savitha now works 6 to 7 hours daily as a delivery agent, often covering around 6 km per order. "I now have the willpower to earn more," she said. " I am not dependent on anyone, I am earning, I have freedom and that's more than enough".

Savitha isn't just a delivery agent she's also a content creator with over 23,000 subscribers, inspiring many with her resilience and strength.

She explains her work ethic. "Whether it's rain or sun, if we want money, we go and work."

Discrimination on the job

Though the two have fought a way to earn their livelihoods, they also speak of some horrific experiences they have to face on the job. "There are people who don't understand our pain. There are some who don't know we are disabled and ask us to come near doorsteps especially in apartments with multi floors," Savitha said.

She shared that if she gets orders that are too far, she does not take the job. Due to the finite battery life in her wheelchair, she cannot travel for too long. "There are times people have not paid me or disrespected me when they see me in the wheelchair."

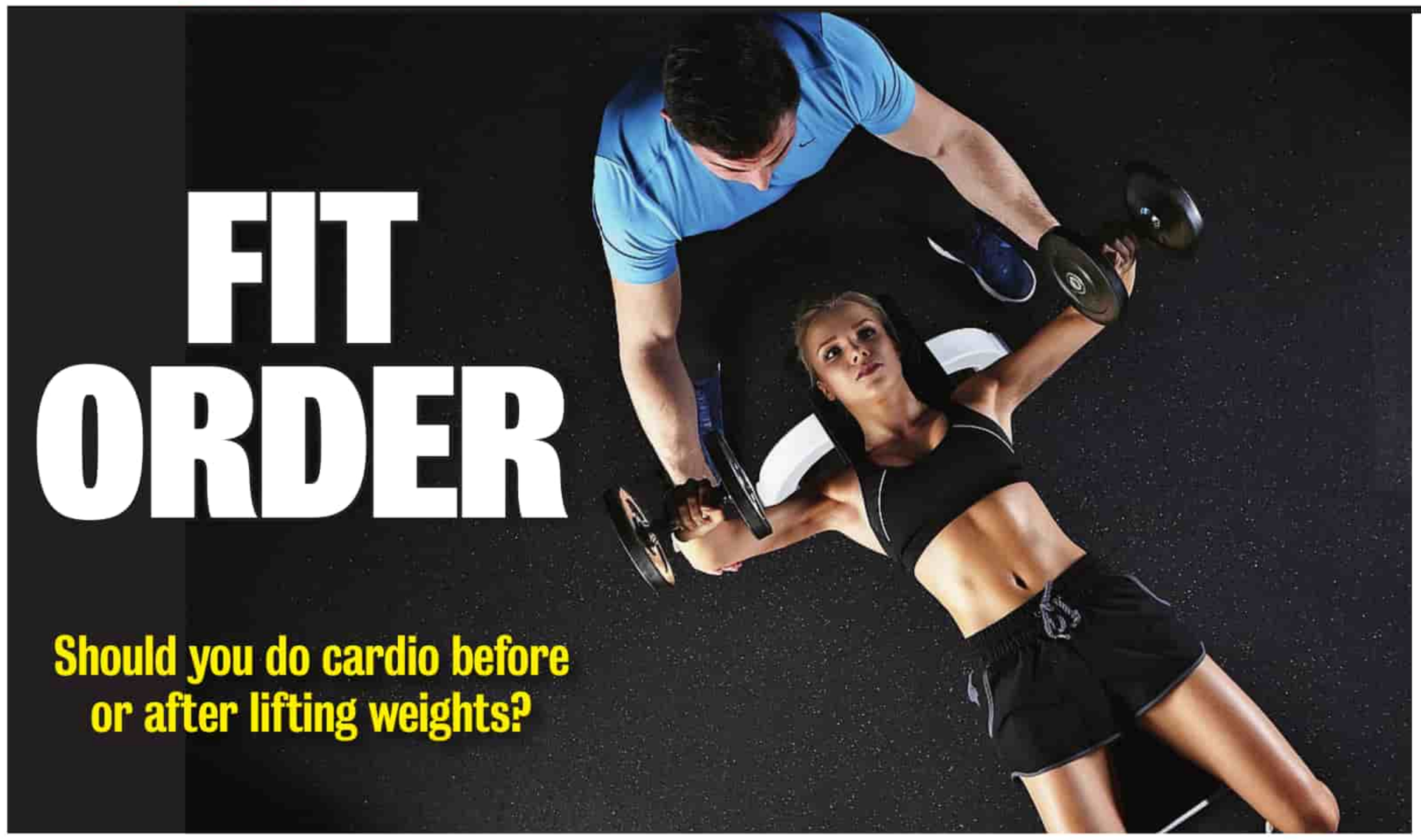
While reflecting on his journey, Muniswamy recalled several painful incidents where he was scolded, disrespected, and even pushed aside. "Most people don't realise we are disabled. In RT Nagar, for one order it was cash on delivery, but they didn't put proper location. Sometimes it will be an empty plot, but sometimes they come and take the food and then hit us and go. I have faced this twice. Another time in an area near Arsikere, three people came. They tried to pull my phone and hit me. I was trying to go fast but they started dashing their vehicle against mine, trying to steal my phone, but I held on to it."

"There are risks in this job, but food delivery gives us some flexibility. If we want to take a day off, we can, and how much we earn depends on the effort we put in. In that sense, it's a comfortable job," Muniswamy shared. He added that despite facing troubling situations, most accidents go unreported. "We're not here to file complaints, we're here to survive," he said. Recalling one such moment, he said, "A man once tried to hit me. I pleaded with him, saying, 'Sir, please don't hit me. I'm here to live, I just want to survive.'"

HEALTH TIP: Rich in iron and antioxidant-rich profile, jamun is known to help purify the blood

Soaked basil seeds are a traditional remedy for body heat

FIT ORDER



Should you do cardio before or after lifting weights?

Fitness enthusiasts have debated the question for decades: is it better to do cardio before or after lifting weights? Until recently, the answer has largely been down to preference – with some enjoying a jog to warm up before hitting the weights, while others believe lifting first is better for burning fat.

But a new study may have finally answered this long disputed question.

According to the study, the order of your workout does significantly affect how much fat you lose. Participants who performed weight training before cardio lost significantly more fat and became more physically active throughout the day compared to those who did cardio first.

The researchers recruited 45 young men aged 18-30 years who were classified as obese. The researchers split participants into three groups for 12 weeks. One group was a control group. This meant they stuck to their usual lifestyle habits and didn't make any changes to their exercise regime.

The other two groups exercised for 60 minutes three times weekly. Participants were also given sports watches to objectively track daily movement. This helped the researchers avoid reliance on self-reporting, which can often be inaccurate.

Both exercise groups followed identical training programmes, differing only in exercise sequence. Strength training involved actual weights, with participants performing exercises such as the bench press, deadlift, bicep curl and squat. The cardio sessions involved 30 minutes of stationary cycling.

Participants in both groups experienced improvements in their cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength and body composition – specifically, they lost fat mass while gaining lean muscle mass. Interestingly, cardiovascular fitness improvements were similar regardless of sequence – echoing recent findings that exercise order has limited impact on cardiovascular adaptations.

But the real differences emerged when it came to fat loss and muscle performance. Participants who lifted weights first experienced significantly greater reductions in overall body fat and visceral fat – the type of fat most strongly linked to cardiovascular disease risk.

They also increased their daily step count by approximately 3,500 steps compared to just 1,600 steps for the cardio-first group. Additionally, the weights-first approach enhanced muscular endurance and explosive strength.

Why exercise sequence matters

The reason behind these findings is tied to how your body uses energy.

Resistance training depletes muscle glycogen stores – the sugar that's stored in the muscles which acts as your body's quick-access fuel. Imagine glycogen as petrol in your car's fuel tank. When you lift weights first, you effectively drain this fuel tank, forcing your body to switch energy sources.

With glycogen stores already low, when you transition to cardio, your body must rely more heavily on fat reserves for energy. It's akin to a hybrid car switching to battery power once the petrol runs low. This metabolic shift helps explain the greater fat loss seen in the weights-first group.

This recent study's findings align with broader research. A comprehensive systematic review published in 2022 found resistance training alone can significantly reduce body fat and visceral fat, the type linked to chronic diseases. Muscles are metabolically active tissues, continuously burning calories even at rest, which amplifies these effects.

> **Study participants who performed weight training before cardio lost significantly more fat compared to those who did cardio first**

Conversely, performing cardio first might compromise your strength training effectiveness. Cardio uses up glycogen stores, leaving muscles partially depleted before you even lift a weight. It also induces fatigue and may reduce your muscles' ability to produce explosive power and strength.

A recent systematic review on concurrent training (the practice of combining both resistance and aerobic exercise within the same program) supports this – highlighting that explosive strength gains might diminish if aerobic and strength training occur in the same session, especially if cardio is performed first.

These findings align with other research on concurrent training. A systematic review and meta-analysis examining exercise sequence effects found that resistance-first protocols produced significantly superior strength improvements compared to endurance-first training.

The American Heart Association's 2023 statement on resistance training confirmed resistance exercise significantly improves lean body mass and reduces fat, especially when combined with other exercise types. However, resistance training alone was found less effective in improving cardiovascular health. This underscores the importance of including cardio in your exercise routine.

However, it is worth noting the study's limitations. As it only involved obese young men, this means we don't know how the results will apply to women, older adults or those with different body compositions. A 2024 review suggests adaptations may differ by sex, indicating the need for further research involving diverse populations.

The 12-week duration also may not capture long-term changes. Results also specifically only apply to concurrent training – performing both exercises in the same session.

Moreover, the study did not account for nutritional intake, sleep patterns or stress levels, all of which can significantly influence body composition outcomes. Future research should incorporate these factors to offer even more comprehensive guidance.

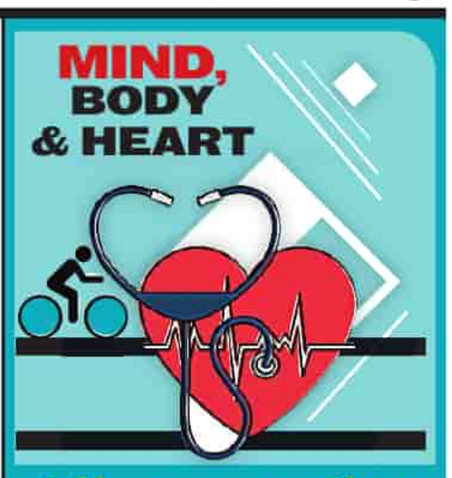
Workout sequence

Whether you prefer to do cardio before or after lifting weights, the message is clear: both will improve overall health. The only difference is that weight training before cardio provides advantages for fat loss, abdominal fat reduction and increased daily physical activity.

Interestingly, resistance training boosts confidence and energy levels, naturally encouraging more movement throughout the day, further aiding fat loss.

If cardiovascular fitness is your primary goal, the sequence matters less, as both ways equally boost aerobic fitness. However, if fat loss and optimising daily activity are your main objectives, evidence strongly supports placing resistance training first.

(By Jack McNamara, University of East London, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Healthy snacks

1. Roasted Vegetable Chips
Vegetables like beetroots and carrots are rich in antioxidants and betalains, which support detoxification enzymes in the liver. They also help reduce inflammation and oxidative stress.
Here's how to make them: Thinly slice the veggies, toss the slices with olive oil and a pinch of salt, and roast until crispy. This crunchy, guilt-free snack is as good for your liver as it is for your taste buds.

2. Walnuts & Dried Berry Mix
Walnuts are rich in omega-3 fatty acids and glutathione, both known to cleanse and support liver function. Dried berries, especially cranberries and blueberries, are rich in antioxidants and fibre.
Here's how to make the mix: Mix a handful of unsalted walnuts with a small portion of unsweetened dried berries for an energising, liver-friendly trail mix.

3. Carrot & Hummus Sticks
Carrots are high in beta-carotene, which converts to vitamin A, an essential component for liver health. Hummus adds plant-based protein and fibre, and tahini (made from sesame seeds) contains liver-friendly compounds.
Here's how to pull together this snack: Cut carrots into sticks and pair with a homemade or low-oil hummus. This is a crunchy, creamy combo with detox benefits.

4. Apple Slices with Nut Butter
Apples are generally low in sugar and high in pectin, a type of fibre that supports digestion and helps flush toxins. Nut butters add healthy fats and protein without overwhelming the liver.
Here's how to make this snack: Slice an apple and pair it with almond or peanut butter (with no added sugar or hydrogenated oils). Sprinkle chia seeds on top for an extra antioxidant boost.

-Femina

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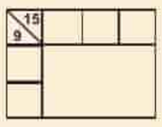
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



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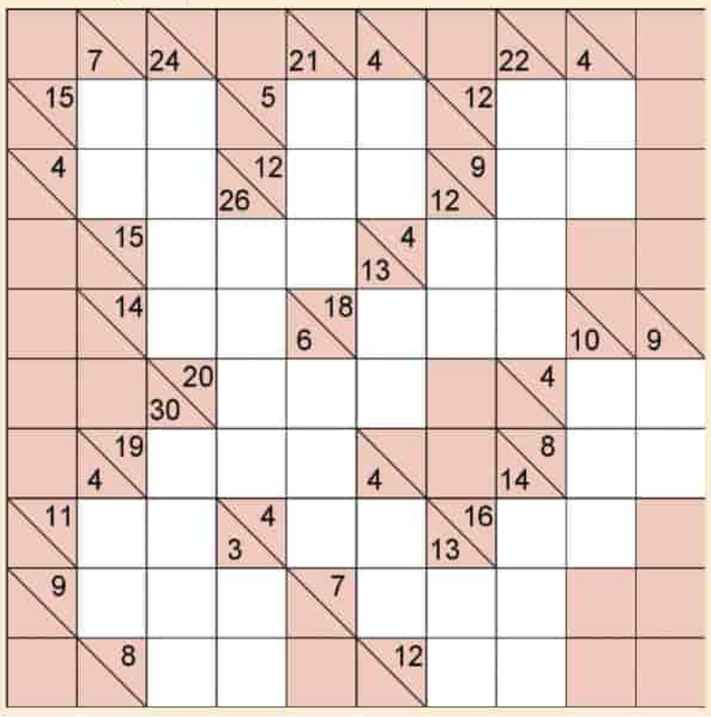
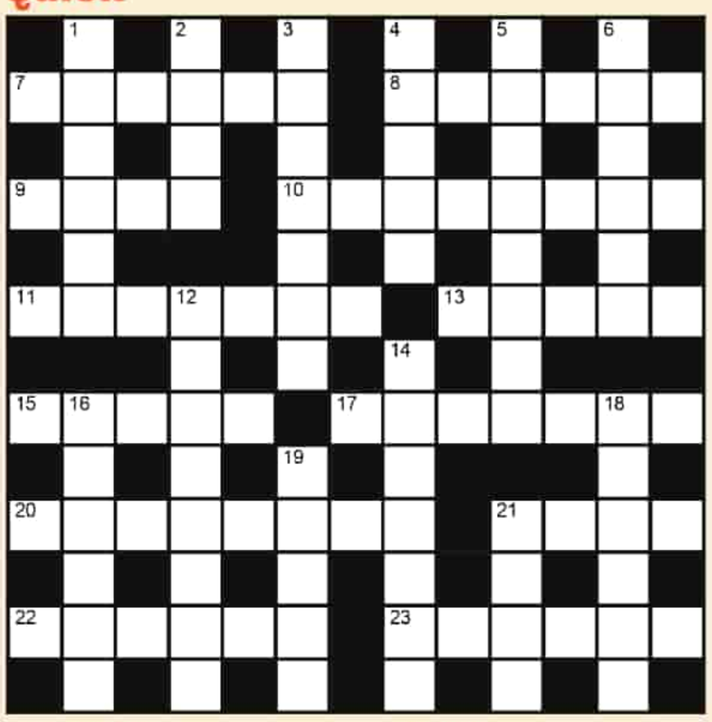


Quick



ACROSS

7 Coarse seaweed (6)
8 Put before? (6)
9 42 in Rome (4)
10 Goes in again (2-6)
11 City in Madhya Pradesh (7)
13 Silent (5)
15 Swimming stroke (5)
17 ____ down : diminished gradually (7)
20 Singing society (4,4)
21 Set of actors (4)
22 Dramatizes or performs (6)
23 Piqued, irritated or irked (6)

DOWN

1 Uncultivated (6)
2 Hindu god of fire (4)
3 Rebuke, telling off or admonishment (7)
4 Salesman's patter (5)
5 A piece of lab equipment (4-4)
6 Ferocious (6)
12 Hollywood actress Jennifer ____ (8)
14 Bangalore's famed botanical gardens (7)
16 Judge's decision (6)
18 Christian festival (6)
19 Sudden burst of light (5)
21 Soft drink (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS O

LRHHRF LR GRIEMIRG SZF HZZ XCOMZDI XEEFRQRCIMZCI, HQXC FDMCRG LP HZZ YZC-SMGRCH IRYDFMHP.

Linemaro

I was feeling a little off today, but you turned me on

Mindchow

Drunkenness is nothing but voluntary madness

Joke of the day

The horse I bet on was so slow, the jockey kept a diary of the trip

Loop

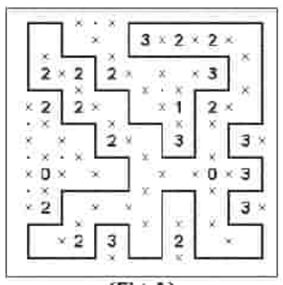
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

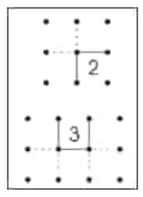
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

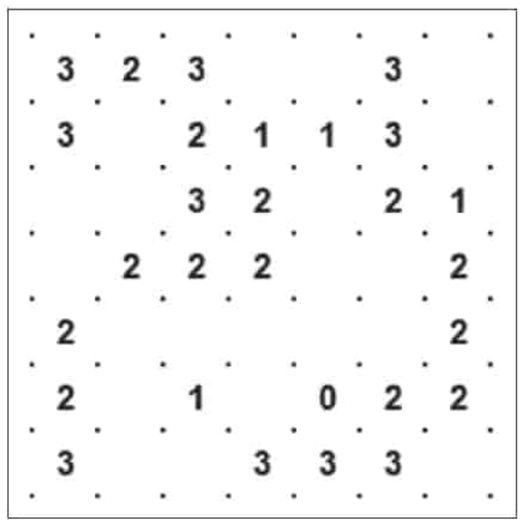
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



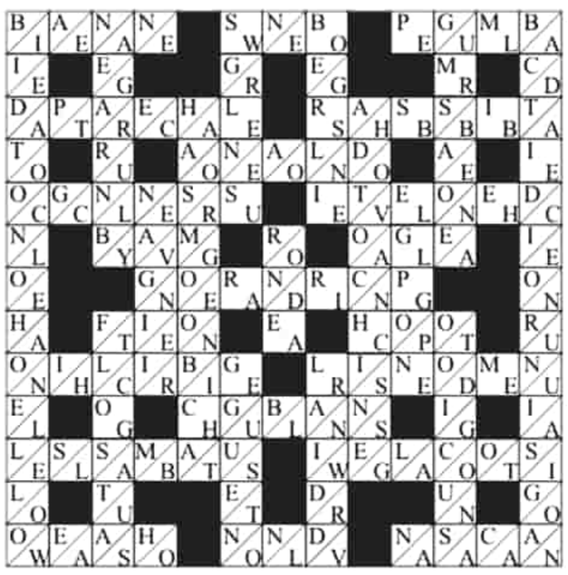
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



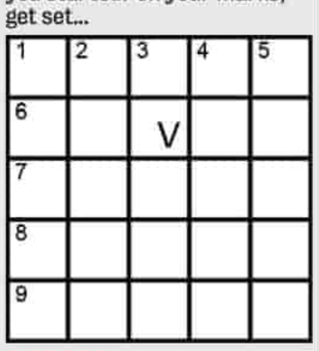
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

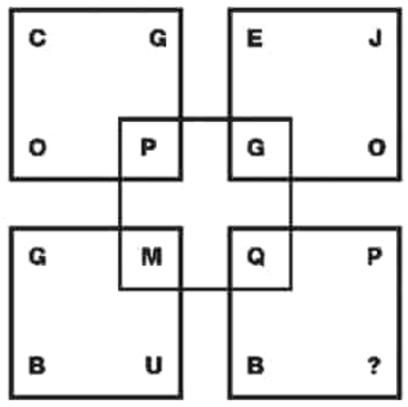
1 Assam; 6 Venal;
7 Biter; 8 Sues I;
9 MC Hop

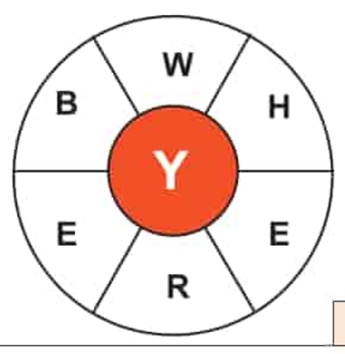
DOWN

1 Tinca; 2 Harms;
3 Via so; 4 Embus;
5 Peels

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	3		1	5	6			
	8			2			7	
6						5		
	1		6			9		
2			9	4	1			6
		8			5		1	
		7						9
	5			1			8	
			2	6	8		4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10

3 3 4 8

Medium = 21

4 7 8 9

Hard = 14

4 6 8 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

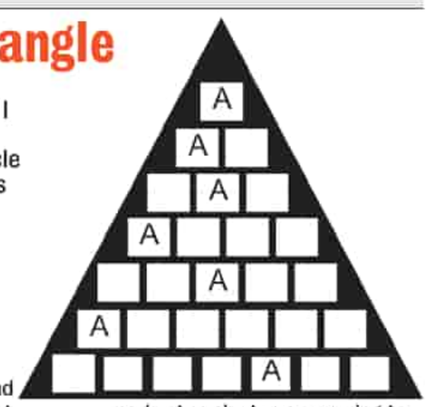
Differences: 1. Finger is moved. 2. Hair is different. 3. Back of chair is different. 4. Cake plate is larger. 5. Glass is moved. 6. Man's head is tilted forward.

Riddler

Three friends have a different favorite colour and a different pet. Name the preferred colour and pet for each person. Clues: Ellie has a turtle. Paul likes the color orange. Nadine is not the friend who has a dog. The person who owns the cat is not the person who prefers yellow. One of the friends likes green best.

Alpha triangle

1 First letter
2 I think therefore I
3 Floor covering
4 Very small particle
5 Defensive ditches
6 Nearly
7 Human beings



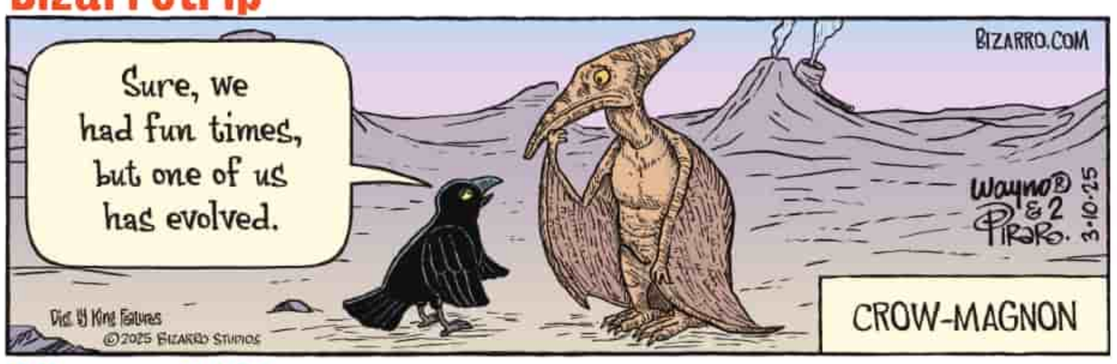
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip


Sure, we had fun times, but one of us has evolved.
BIZARRO.COM
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CROW-MAGNON
Dist. by King Features
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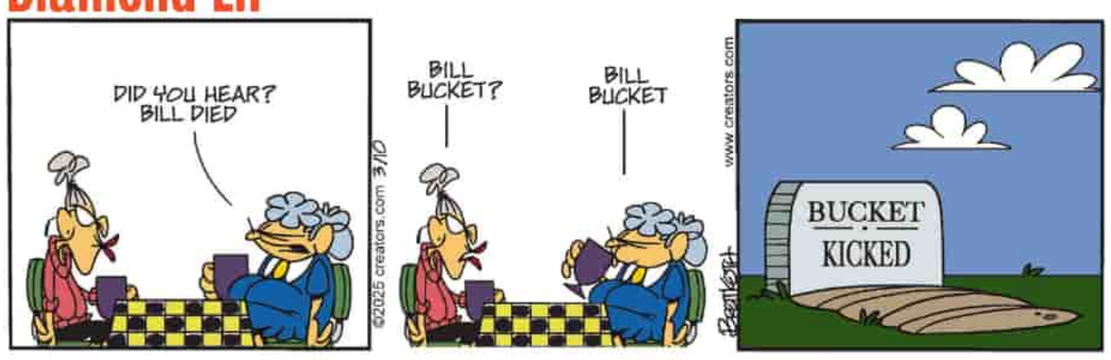
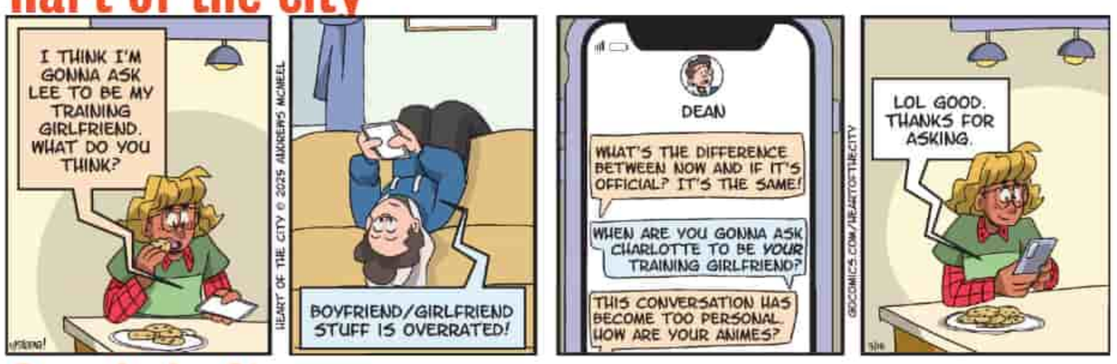
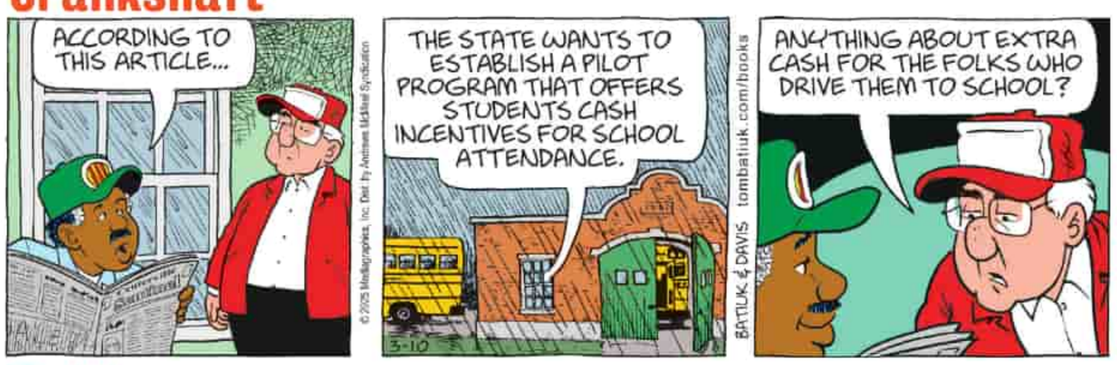
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city


I THINK I'M GONNA ASK LEE TO BE MY TRAINING GIRLFRIEND. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND STUFF IS OVERRATED!
DEAN
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NOW AND IF IT'S OFFICIAL? IT'S THE SAME!
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA ASK CHARLOTTE TO BE YOUR TRAINING GIRLFRIEND?
THIS CONVERSATION HAS BECOME TOO PERSONAL. HOW ARE YOUR ANIMES?
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
LOL GOOD. THANKS FOR ASKING.

Crankshaft


ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE...
THE STATE WANTS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM THAT OFFERS STUDENTS CASH INCENTIVES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.
3-10
ANYTHING ABOUT EXTRA CASH FOR THE FOLKS WHO DRIVE THEM TO SCHOOL?
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
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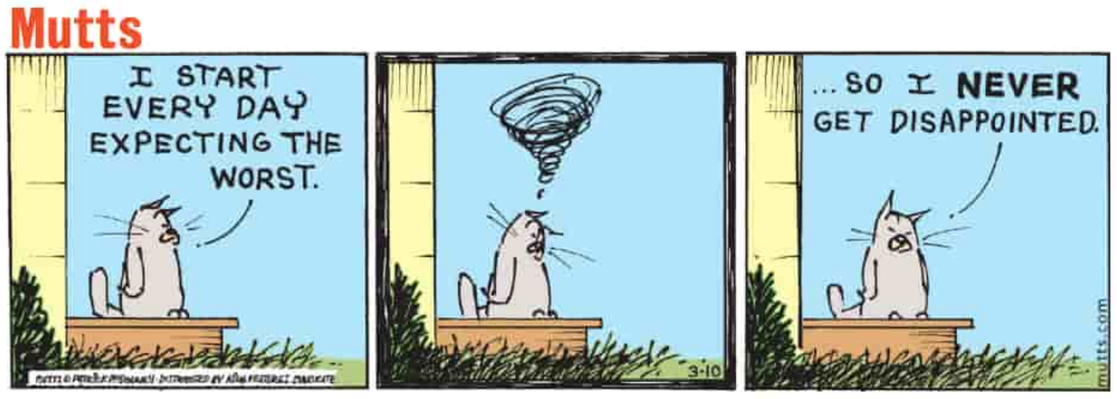
Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today, your tendency to overspend may impact your savings. Be mindful of your communication, both at work and at home. Avoid lending money, and postpone any major decisions regarding real estate or other assets. Try not to neglect your responsibilities, as doing so could lead to setbacks.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Peace of mind prevails today. You might consider investing in your business, which could improve cash flow. Increased income may strengthen your financial situation. Romantic moments with your spouse will enhance family harmony. Singles may find a suitable partner, and couples could decide to take their relationship towards marriage. Students are likely to be supported by positive karma.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

You'll feel cheerful today, and past losses may turn into profits. Your seniors may recognise your efforts and reward you with praise or even a promotion. Changes in position or responsibilities at work are likely. Opponents and hidden rivals may no longer be a threat. Singles and couples may make significant decisions about marriage, possibly with the help of friends or family.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

With the Moon's blessings, happiness returns. Last week's financial or emotional struggles may begin to ease. Hard work is now being recognised. With support from your team, you'll be able to restart delayed projects. Business gains are likely, giving your finances a welcome boost.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Today, you might feel sluggish or face minor health issues. Avoid making any new business investments or starting new ventures, as losses are possible. Gains might unexpectedly reverse, so proceed cautiously and focus on maintaining stability rather than growth today.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

You may receive new business opportunities that will become profitable shortly. Innovative ideas could bring success at work, and new partnerships may form. However, a busy schedule might leave you mentally fatigued, possibly affecting your domestic life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Your work performance is strong today, and your colleagues are likely to be supportive. You'll complete delayed projects. Lending money for investments could be beneficial. Job seekers may receive new opportunities. Positive news may arrive for those with longstanding health issues.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Things are stabilising, and people around you are more responsive. However, avoid viewing life as a burden. Try to stay steady even in challenging circumstances. While quick gains may be elusive, the blessings of elders can help you overcome difficulties. Any confusion about your goals may now be cleared up.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

You may struggle to complete tasks and deal with frequent mood swings. Your patience will be tested, and minor mistakes may disrupt your workflow. Love relationships could feel confusing, and high expectations may strain emotional connections with your spouse. Pay attention to your parents' well-being. Students might find it hard to focus.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

You'll feel content today as you manage to balance earnings and expenses, improving your finances. Your social and professional network will support the implementation of your plans. Siblings and subordinates will be helpful. A visit to elders or a religious place may bring peace.

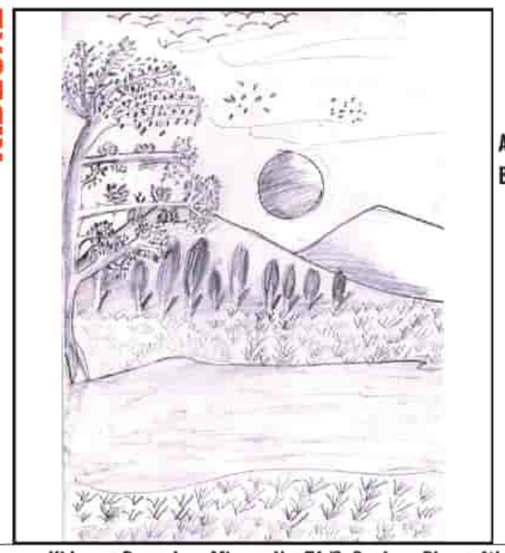
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Your energy is high, bringing happiness and motivation. With hard work, you'll make meaningful progress toward your goals. You may plan outings with friends or family to celebrate. Students are likely to receive good news regarding their studies.

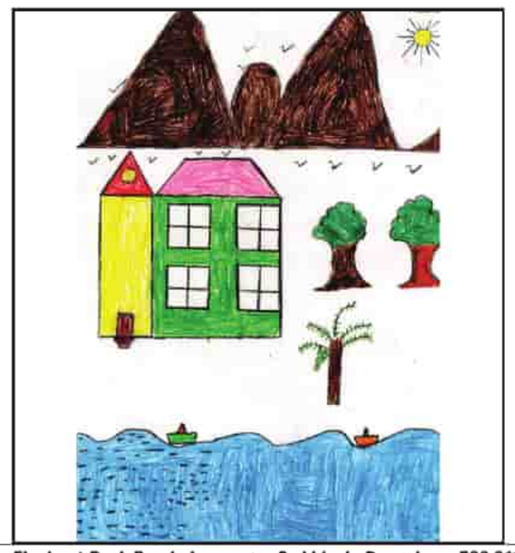
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

The first half of the day may be challenging, with feelings of nervousness or unhappiness. However, as the day progresses, your mood will improve, and your confidence will rise. Avoid careless decisions regarding finances, career, or academics. Disagreements over self-respect with your spouse may arise, so stay calm to preserve happy moments. Couples may plan a short trip together.

KIDZONE



Ananya, Bengaluru



Pracheth, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER

Ellie: Likes yellow, has a turtle. Paul: Likes orange, has a dog. Nadine: Likes green, has a cat.

QUOTE UNCODE

Better be despised for too anxious apprehensions, than ruined by too confident security.

FAST FIVE

A	M	A	S	S
N	A	V	E	L
T	R	I	B	E
I	S	S	U	E
C	H	O	M	P

BULL'S EYE

byre, hereby, WHEREBY

SOLVE IN 1M

0!=1
(1+1+1)/(1+1)
4/2=2

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

V. Starting on the top left of each outer square, and moving clockwise around the corners of the squares, letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 4 for the upper left square, 5 for the upper right, 6 for the lower right and 7 for the lower left. Additionally, the letters bounded by the central square take the inverse alphabetical value of the original letter.

SUDOKU

7	3	2	1	5	6	4	9	8
6	8	4	1	8	9	7	2	3
5	8	9	4	2	3	6	7	1
3	1	4	6	8	2	9	5	7
2	7	5	9	4	1	8	3	6
9	6	8	3	7	5	2	1	4
8	2	7	5	3	4	1	6	9
4	5	6	8	3	7	5	8	2
1	9	3	2	6	8	7	4	5

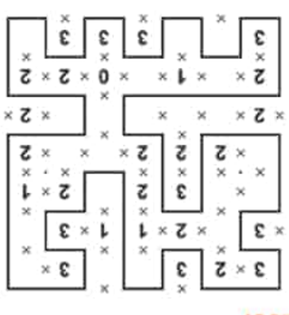
ALPHA TRIANGLE

A, Am, Mat, Atom, Moats, Almost, Mortals.

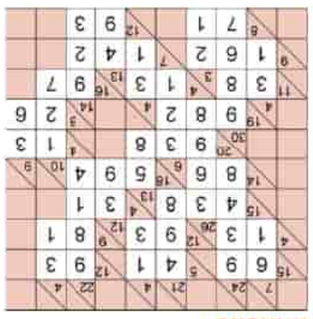
GO FIGURE

3 – 4 + 8 + 3 = 10
Easy
4 – 9 + 8 x 7 = 21
Medium
4 x 9 / 6 + 8 = 14
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO

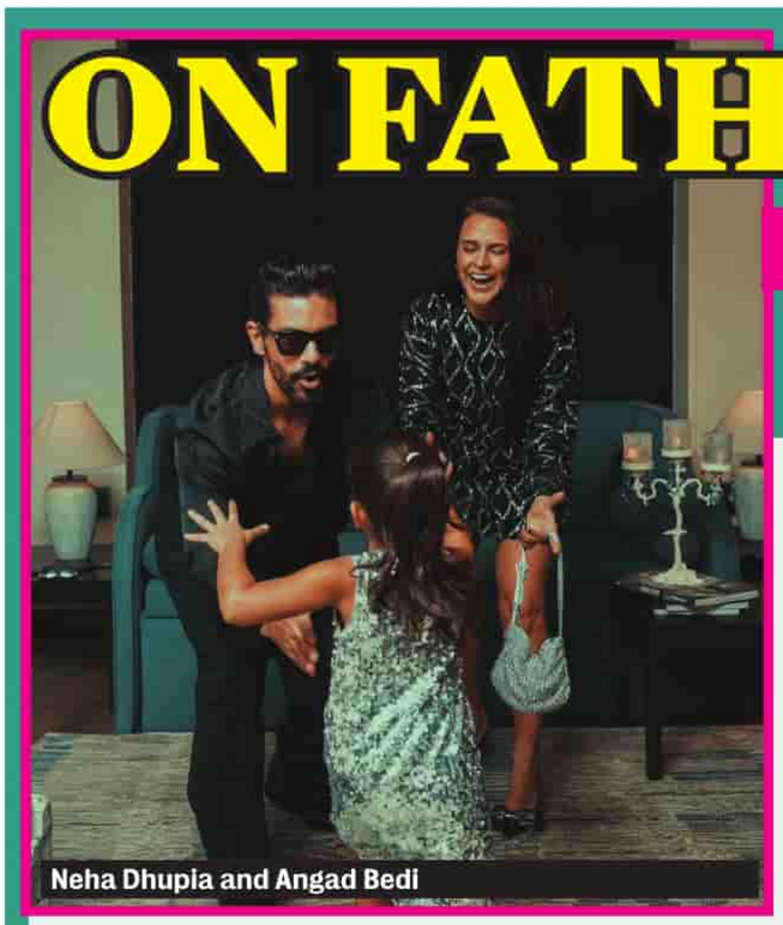


Volume No 18, Issue No 118 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru – 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Script cooking
Renuka Shahane confirms script in the works after Ashutosh Rana expresses desire to be directed by her

ON FATHER'S DAY

All hail the incredible men in their lives


Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi

Kiara with Sidharth

Dharmendra and Bobby Deol

Soon mom-to-be Kiara Advani penned a sweet Father's Day wish for all the incredible dads in her life.

Wishing her father, the 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' actress wrote on her official Instagram handle, "To the man who raised me with patience, strength, and so much love, You will always be my first hero… and probably the only person who still answers my calls on the first ring."

However, Kiara did not forget her father-in-law and Sidharth Malhotra's father.

Her post further read, "To the man who raised my husband, thank you for shaping the man I get to build a life with".

Last but not least, Kiara also wished Father's Day to Sid, who will soon be embracing fatherhood. "And to my husband, who's about to become a dad, I already know our child is the luckiest... Happy Father's Day to the incredible dads in my life," the 'Kabir Singh' actress added.

Meanwhile, actress Neha Dhupia took a moment to celebrate the three most important father figures in her life.

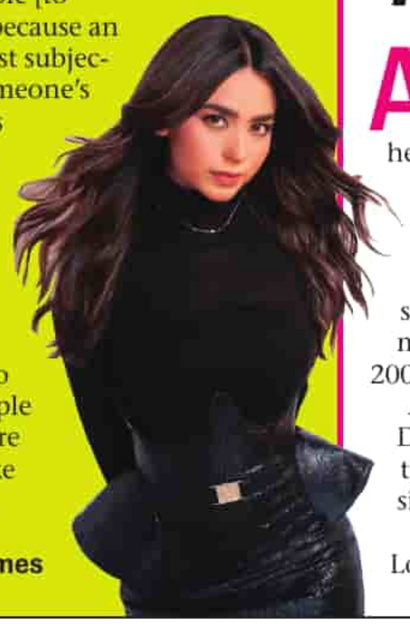
The actress honored the memory of her late father-in-law, legendary cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi, and shared a heartfelt tribute on social media. Alongside that, she also penned sweet notes for her father Pradip Singh Dhupia and husband Angad Bedi, calling him the "best daddy ever."

Bollywood actor Bobby Deol took to his Instagram, and shared a picture with his father, captioning it, "The man I am, the love I give and the strength I hold are all a reflection of you. Happy Father's Day! Love you Papa". **– Agencies**

Don't nitpick

Actress Soundarya Sharma was recently seen sharing the screen with Akshay Kumar and Abhishek Bachchan in the latest comedy thriller 'Housefull 5'. Amid the movie receiving good reviews from fans and audiences, Soundarya has addressed some comments the film generated regarding the objectification of the female body.

About her role in Housefull 5 movie In an interview with DNA India, Soundarya reacted to concerns about the film placing more emphasis on the appearance of female characters rather than giving them meaningful roles. Soundarya said she had no time to scroll through such reviews. "I think the makers would be the right people [to answer], because an actor is just subjective to someone's vision. It's made in a very light way and with heart. I don't know who these people are who are talking like this," she stated.



– ETimes

Just like that

Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora, who parted ways last year, continue to share cordial ties. On a recent lazy Sunday, Malaika posted a series of photos along with a quote on love—drawing attention not just for the content, but for Arjun's unexpected like.

The rare interaction surprised fans, as the duo had largely stayed away from engaging with each other's posts post-breakup. Malaika Arora's Sunday photo-dump offered a peek into her slow, self-care-filled morning. Dressed in a cosy pyjama set and bathrobe, she shared glimpses of her relaxed routine, from her day's menu to a beautifully set dining table—serving both style and serenity in equal measure.

One of the posts in the lot was a quote about love, written by poet Rumi: "I don't love you with my heart and mind, I love you with my soul, in case my mind forgets and my heart stops."

Arjun Kapoor was among the many celebrities who liked Malaika Arora's post on Instagram. While the gesture sparked curiosity among fans, it's likely just a reflection of their amicable relationship post-breakup. **–ETimes**

Adam Brody wanted to host 'Blue's Clues'

Actor Adam Brody, best known for his role in the drama series "The OC", says he tried very hard to get a hosting gig for a kids' television show "Blue's Clues".

"Blue's Clues" premiered in 1996 and ran for six seasons until 2006. Actor and musician hosted the show till 2002.

After his exit, actor and host Donovan Patton, took upon the hosting role for fifth and sixth season.

Brody said he just shifted to Los Angeles at that point.

"I really wanted 'Blue's Clues' early on when I first moved to L A I tried really hard. It's like 1999. I didn't get it. But I would've loved it," he told entertainment news outlet The Hollywood Reporter.

The 45-year-old actor added he tried to get Henry Parker's role in the 1998 drama series "Dawson's Creek". It eventually went to Michael Pitt.

"There's an early 'Dawson's Creek' role. It really made me nervous to read with Scott Speedman. I was sweating. I believe (the role) went to Michael Pitt. They wanted pouting lips," he said. Brody made his debut in 2000 with the drama film "Growing Up Brady", where he essayed the role of Barry Williams. The film was directed by Richard A Colla. He then went on to star in projects such as "Once and Again". **PTI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Ghetto kids arrived

Pan-Indian movie 45 is set to create a record with a unique promotional song. Producer Ramesh Reddy and director Arjun Janya have been busy making arrangements for the shooting of the song. They received the team of Ghetto Kids from Uganda at Bengaluru International Airport recently. The Ghetto Kids, known for dancing skills, will participate in the shoot.

Karunada Chakravarthy Dr Shivarajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and Raj B Shetty play the lead roles in the movie. "We have decided to have a unique promotional song. The team of Ghetto Kids from Uganda has already arrived. They are visiting India for the first time. The Ghetto Kids will shake a leg with Dr Shivarajkumar, Upendra, and Raj B Shetty. We are putting up a huge set for the picturisation of the song which will be sung by MC Bijju. Johnny Master is the choreographer for the song," said director Arjun Janya.

Producer Ramesh Reddy appreciated the commitment of director Arjun Janya. "I am very happy with the director, who wanted to promote the movie on a grand scale. The movie has turned out well. I thank the cast and crew for their cooperation. I am confident of the movie's success not only in Karnataka but across the country," said Reddy.

Trailer unveiled

A team of newcomers has come up with a love story. The title of the movie is Kaalave Mosagaara. Its trailer and a promotional song were unveiled at the MMB Legacy on Saturday. Sandalwood actor Vasishta N Simha launched the song and the trailer. Kempegowda Sene State President Ravi Kumar and its women's wing president Lakshmi, veteran character actors Biradar, and Ramanand Mysuru were present on the occasion. A video of best wishes from Tara Anuradha, Darling Krishna, Garuda Ram, Dhananjay, Vinay Rajkumar, and Chandan Shetty was also screened on the occasion.

Simha apologised for arriving late at the function. "I am here because of my friend Bharath Sagar. Both of us used to walk the ramps during fashion shows. Our passion towards movies made us famous. My friend Bharath Saagar debuts as a hero with this movie," said Simha. Ravi Kumar said that Sene members have already extended their support to the movie.